

digitizer 42 into coordinate data with character recognition if necessary. There are also included programs for the following controls, such as transfer of the image data.

5 The image development area 32a of the RAM 32 temporarily stores the taken image data (YCbCr) from the image processing circuit 18. The RAM 32 is also used as a temporary buffer for temporarily storing the JPEG compressed image data read from the flash memory
10 34 and as an image exclusive work area for image compression and development.

 When the flash memory 34 is mounted and connected to the system bus 44, the CPU 20 prepares, in the memory 34, a DCF corresponding folder structure for
15 storing the taken image. When the operator depresses the shutter switch 30, the CPU 20 executes JPEG compression of the taken image data from the image processing circuit 18, then adds additional data in a predetermined format to the compressed taken image data
20 and stores the data as a JPEG file in the folder identified by the date and time of image pickup. The folder is prepared anew for a different date and time of image pickup.

 When the reproduction mode is selected after
25 the image pickup, the CPU 20 prepares thumbnail images from the image file in each folder in the flash memory 34 and simultaneously displays such thumbnail images.

In such thumbnail images, the operator selects an image to be displayed over the entire image area by touching the digitizer 42 with a pen. Based on the coordinate information from the digitizer 42, the CPU 20

5 identifies the selected image and reads the data of the selected image from the flash memory 34. The CPU 20 develops the read data with JPEG expansion in the image development area 32a, then executes skipping to 640 x 480 pixels and transfer to the LCD control circuit 26
10 for display on the image area of the LCD display device 22.

It is also possible to display the content of all the files in the flash memory on the monitor image of the computer, by detaching the flash memory 34 from
15 the main body of the camera and connecting it to the computer through a known card reader.

The LCD control circuit 26 converts the YCrCb image data (the taken image data from the image processing circuit 18 or the JPEG expanded image data
20 read from the flash memory 34) from the CPU 20 into the RGB format and writes such image data into the VRAM 28 in the form of an image to be displayed, and then reads such RGB data for supply to the display drive circuit 24, which drives the LCD display apparatus 22 according
25 to the RGB image data from the LCD control circuit 26. The LCD display device 30 is composed of a TFT liquid crystal display panel of about VGA size (640 x 480

pixels).

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The shutter switch 30 is to instruct the start of the image pickup operation and can assume a half depressed state and a fully depressed state, as already
5 known in the still camera. The CPU 20 reads image pickup conditions from a folder designated prior to the image pickup operation, and sets the control parameters such as the shutter speed and the diaphragm stop value close to such image pickup conditions. The CPU 20
10 locks the control parameters such as the shutter speed and the diaphragm stop value when the shutter switch 30 is half depressed, and, when it is fully depressed, executes development of the taken image data from the image processing circuit 18 in the image development
15 area 32a of the RAM 32 with JPEG compression, and stores the image data with a predetermined file name in the designated folder of the flash memory 34.

When the main body of the camera is placed on the cradle 50, the power supply connectors 52a, 52b are
20 mutually connected and the data connectors 54a, 54b are also mutually connected. The power supply detection circuit 60 detects the connection of the power supply connectors 52a, 52b by the voltage thereof and sends a signal, indicating the connection state, to the power
25 supply circuit 56. In response, the power supply circuit 56 sends the electric power to the cradle 50 and also sends the electric power to the charging